

Existing Sustainable Landscaping Programming and Education Requirements

Sustainable Landscaping Educational Programs

Table 1: Existing sustainable landscaping educational programs in California. An ‘*’ indicates course includes professional certification programs labeled by the EPA WaterSense program

Program/Organization Name	Program Genre	Target Audience	Notes
Academia (e.g., UC Davis , Cal Poly Pomona , San Luis Obispo , Long Beach City College , Pierce College , etc.)	Educational/ Training	Students, General Public	Hands on urban horticulture classes, Master Gardener courses through the UC extension, landscape architecture courses, irrigation engineering courses, etc.
American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association (ARCSA)	Professional Training & Accreditation	Variable, Landscape Professionals, Regulators, Decision Makers, Business and Home Owners	Tiered-level programs teaching rainwater system design, construction, and use
Bay-Friendly Qualified Professional (BFQP) and Rater Trainings	Professional Training & Certification	Landscape Designers, Landscape Architects, Landscape Contractors, Maintenance Professionals, Public Sector Professionals, BFL Raters (prerequisite: BFQP training)	Resulting Qualification: Raters document and submit 3 rd -party rating of BFL landscapes; BFQPs design, install and/or maintain landscapes that conserve water, reduce waste, build healthy soils, protect water/air quality, protect and provide wildlife habitat
California-Friendly™ Landscaping Classes	Educational	Open to All, Garden Hobbyists Landscape Professionals	Promote more attractive, water-efficient yards; Curricula used throughout the state in local classes (e.g. San Diego); offered for free
California Landscape Contractors Association (CLCA) Water Managers*	Professional Training & Certification	Landscape Contractors, Irrigation Professionals	Certification for water managers with irrigation audit and site management experience, and a proven track record of saving water
California Native Plant Society (CNPS) California Native Landscape Professionals	Professional Training & Certification	Landscape Contractors Landscape Company Owners Landscape Professionals Maintenance Workers Decision Makers Irrigation Professionals Home Owners, etc.	Certification to become a CNPS landscaper, able to understand and manage: Basic Native Plant Ecology, Site Assessment and Preparation, Installation, Watering Principles, Early Establishment, Maintenance, and Troubleshooting
California Stormwater Quality Association (CSQA) Qualified SWPPP Practitioner (QSP) & Qualified SWPPP Developer (QSD)	Professional Training & Qualification	Engineers, Surveyors, Geologists, Stormwater Professionals (e.g., site managers, superintendents, or inspectors)	Construction General Permit training for the development and implementation of Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPP) that comply with state-mandated BMPs and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements

EcoLandscape California River-Friendly Landscaping 'Green Gardener Professional' Training	Professional Training	Landscape Architects, Landscape Designers, Landscape Contractors, Irrigation Professionals, Landscape/Property Managers, Maintenance Workers	Trains professionals to design, install, and manage landscapes holistically, conserving water minimizing waste and pollution outputs, and integrating soil, plant, pest, and irrigation management
EcoLandscape California River-Friendly 'Green Gardener at Home' Training	Training	General Public Garden Hobbyists	General training to teach whole-systems approach to sustainable landscaping, from designing to growing to maintaining healthy landscapes
EcoLandscapeTM	Professional Training & Qualification	River-Friendly Landscaping Green Gardener Professionals	Advanced training building on the principles introduced in the River-Friendly Green Gardener Professional Training
Irrigation Association Select Certified *	Professional Training & Certification	Landscape Contractors, Irrigation Professionals, Landscape/Property Managers	Separate certifications in irrigation system design, installation and maintenance, and audits that take into account surrounding landscape and local climate
G^3 Green Garden Group	Professional Training & Certification	Variable, Landscape Educators	Technical training to evaluate landscapes and make water efficient, carbon sequestering, and storm water reducing landscaping decisions
Green Roofs for Healthy Cities (GRHC)	Professional Training and Accreditation	Landscape Architects, Landscape Designers, Landscape Contractors	Green roof/wall/integrated agriculture and building water management design, installation, and maintenance training
Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper (QWEL) *	Professional Training & Certification	Landscape Professionals	Professional training on principals of proper plant selection for the local climate, irrigation system design and maintenance, and irrigation system programming and operation; includes graywater modules and soon to include rainwater capture modules.
Sustainable Sites InitiativeTM Landscape for Life: Train the Trainer Program	Professional Training & Qualification	Garden/Horticulture Educators, Master Gardeners/Naturalists, Landscape Architects, Landscape Designers	Teaching tips, tools, and curricula disseminated via webinar to train future teachers on holistic, sustainable gardening

Current Landscaping Education and Licensing Requirements¹

Table 2: Status of education and licensing requirements by landscaping role in California.

Target Audience	Status of Education/Training	Status of Certification/ Licensing	Status of Continuing Education Requirements & Opportunities
Certified Arborist	3 years of experience and a license exam	Annual license renewal through the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA)	30 CEU's every 2 years
Landscape Architect	6 years of experience (4-year degree plus two years experience) to qualify for License	Biennial state license renewal	None required, some offered (see Table 1 above)
Landscape Designer	No educational requirements	No formal certifications; membership in Association of Professional Landscape Design (APLD) California Chapter and APLD Certification lends credibility	None required, some offered (see Table 1 above)
Landscape Contractor	4 years experience in the field and a license state exam (pre-test license classes available)	C-27 state license required for any landscaping work over \$500 other than maintenance; membership in California Landscape Contractors Association (supportive of the New Norm) lends credibility; Landscape Industry Certified Technician and Water Manager Certification available but not required	None required; Landscape Industry Certified Technician must complete 24 CEU's every 2 years
Landscape Contractor – Synthetic Products	Construction Industry use and procedure guidelines under C-61	D-12 state license for installation of synthetic products such as PVC piping systems for irrigation and drainage, subsurface irrigation drip systems, and synthetic turf; must demonstrate qualifications to receive contractor classification	None Required
Landscape Contractor – Tree Service	Construction Industry use and procedure guidelines under C-61	D-49 state license for the pruning, removal, or guying of trees, limbs, and stumps, guying	None Required
Irrigation Professionals	4 years experience in the field and a license state exam (pre-test license classes available)	C-27 state license required for any landscaping irrigation work over \$500 other than maintenance; ² certification from an EPA WaterSense labeled organization lends credibility; certifications available in a number of fields but not required	None required; certified irrigation experts require ~20 CEU's every 2 years depending on the certification type

¹ Initially this table was intended to cover *required* sustainable landscaping educational programs; in the absence of required sustainable landscaping programming (outside of school-specific curricula), the table covers other educational requirements.

² Note that this is not a formal licensing for irrigation, rather a state license that happens to including irrigation as it pertains to other landscaping licensing requirements.

Maintenance Workers (a.k.a., mow, blow, and go)	None Required	None Required	None Required, some available (see Table 1 above)
Landscape/Property Managers	None Required	None Required	None Required, some available (see Table 1 above)
Garden Hobbyists/All Public	None Required	None Required	None Required, some available (see Table 1 above)